MODERN TIMES

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Vol. III No. 11 — New Haven — October 15-31, 1972

The Democrats Are Planning For Election Day

8th ward Democrats plan strategy for the coming election. From left to right, Alderwoman Louise DeLauro, Senator Tony Ciarlone, "Gig" Martino, and ward chairman Tim Lambert. (MT photo by Karl Lechow)

By Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

People talk about it all the time. Some hate it. Some are fiercely loyal to it. McGovern and Giaimo are counting on it to win big in New Haven. Republicans envy it. Most people don't understand how and why it works.

This article is a tour of the Democratic Party Organization as it operates in New Haven. We will look most closely at the Ward organization, for that is the basic building block of the Party. What is the organization or the "machine"? What does it do? We found answers to these questions by talking to people who have worked in, with or against the Democrats over the years.

Why Work Hard for the Party?

People work hard for the Party for many different reasons. One big reason is respect. Most ward workers are far from rich. They get little income and less respect and dignity from their jobs. Being active in the Party and maybe getting to be Ward Chairperson brings with it some respect and some recognition.

Active Party workers will get invitations to official parties or meetings where they will talk to local big shots. They can get appointed to neighborhood organizations. "You are somebody. People sometimes call you to help. Sometimes you can make a phone call and do something. It's a good *feeling.*"

There are problems with being an active ward party worker. "Some people *think* we can do anything. They're wrong, but they get mad sometimes when we can't solve the problem."

Another Democrat said, "You think we have a lot more pull than we really do." Many active workers also feel that people trust them less because they are politically active, because people feel that all politics and politicians are "dirty crooks or something like that."

See COGS page 7

Unions Back McGovern

by Lynne Karsten and Nina Adams
Modern Times Staff

The drive to elect George McGovern has gained momentum as a growing segment of Connecticut Labor unifies behind him. At the October 9th meeting in New Haven's AFL-CIO Labor Temple, the Connecticut Labor for McGovern organization stressed the need for action.

Plans for a media blitz included regular press statements, interviews and press releases at frequent intervals. Matty Greenburg, of the United Auto Workers (UAW), stressed the need to reach workers at the plant. His plans include a massive distribution of McGovern leaflets. The UAW has leaflets and will take charge of their distribution.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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Farah Boycott P. 3

Community Health Clinic In Fair Haven

The Fair Haven Health Clinic, at Columbus School, offers free health care for any resident of Fair Haven. Above is the scene of a busy night at the clinic. See story on page 5.
(MT photo by Vittorio Comisso)

MOMS Take Cause to Capitol, Find Slammed Doors

by Patti Miller
Modern Times Staff

On Wednesday morning, October 11th , three busloads of New Haven people left the Green for Hartford. There were students, teachers, workers who took the day off, representatives from some New Haven organizations such as the Peoples' Coalition for Peace and Justice and New Haven Women's Liberation, and Welfare MOMS and their children. We all went up to the Capitol to, again, demonstrate against the Flat Grant System

The Flat Grant System, which has been the object of protest for over a year now, went into effect in this state on August 1. This system issues out a certain amount of money to welfare recipients according to family size. Checks were cut drastically by 30% - 40%. A family of four is expected to live comfortably on $310.69 per month. A family of two receives $204.00.

In protest of the Flat Grant System the Welfare MOMS have been camping out on the New Haven Green since August 28. With the support of people like North Haven students who collect food for them, the Peoples' Coalition for Peace and Justice whose members provide the MOMS with a hot meal each evening, and the man in the First National on Grand Avenue who brings them food every Saturday night, they will continue their vigil until the first snowfall.

Publicity Campaign

This camp-in has increased public awareness of the injustices of the Flat Grant System. The Hartford Demonstration helped to do this also.

Welfare MOMS and other participants march in a large circle around the front lawn of the Capitol Building in Hartford. (MT photo by Patti Miller)

Neither the MOMS nor any of the other participants really expected Governor Meskill or Welfare Commissioner White to be there and speak to them. They weren't there, and they didn't speak to them. White even went so far as to order his entire staff not to speak to any welfare recipients. What made the reception at the Capitol even more unpleasant was the lye which had been spread about the lawn where where the demonstrators spent the day.

The demonstration was quiet and peaceful. People marched and sang and sat and talked. At 1:00 p.m. a contingent from the group went to the Aetna Life Insurance building. There they met with representatives from both Aetna and ITT.

The point of this visit, and the general theme of the demonstration, was to emphasize publically the fact that the taxes large companies and insurance firms pay are very small in proportion to the personal taxes that working people pay.

The idea here is that if the state needs more money, as Meskill claims it does, then why shouldn't it come from taxing the rich sources in the state, like the insurance companies, instead of sapping the incomes of the middle and working classes.

The representatives from the insurance companies agreed to investigate the Flat Grant System, and promised to publish information about it in their literature. If this move makes people on that level more aware of the injustices of the welfare system, that's fine. The MOMS and other welfare recipients know all too well how unjus the Flat Grant System is.

One Fourth For All

By Joelle Dominski
Modern Times Staff

The Housing Authority may soon be forced to stop charging welfare tenants as much as three times the rent working tenants pay. Ten public housing tenants are bringing suit to insure that their rent be figured at 25% of their income, as required by law. The tenants charge that they are paying as much as 70% of their income for rent.

The tenants asked Legal Aid lawyers Stuart Bear and Ann Hill for help after the Flat Grant System of welfare payments went into effect, August 1. When the Welfare Depatment stopped insuring recipients enough income to cover rent, many were faced with eviction.

One tenant on welfare, who lives with her child, now gets $204 a month income and is charged $158 rent by the Housing Authority. She is left with less than $50 for food, clothes and transportation. Her case is one example of what many tenants face.

The tenants discovered that the Housing Authority never adjusted rent scales for welfare recipients last December when it became law that they could only be charged 25% of their income, as working tenants were charged. In addition, HUD never made funds available to the Housing Authority to cover the loss from lower rents.

Edward White, executive director of the Housing Authority said, "We invited the suit against us as a means of getting the department of Housing and Urban Development to pay us." According to White, it is because HUD has been unable to reimburse the Housing Authority that rents have not been lowered. He said he is refusing to lower rents until the funds come through because "otherwise we would go bankrupt."

At a hearing October 16, the ten tenants argued that the court should ask the Housing Authority to stop eviction notices and repayment notes, and begin accepting rent at 25% of their income immediately. Judge Newman has ordered the Housing Authority and HUD to file their papers by October 25, when a decision will probably be handed down. The tenants eventually hope to get retroactive enforcement of the law and be repaid for extra rent they paid since December 22.

The suit is being directed at the Housing Authority, Dominic Panagrossi, chairman of its Board of Comissioners and Edward White, its executive director; George Romney, secretary of HUD and Henry White, state welfare comissioner.

The tenants bringing suit live in housing leased by the Housing Authority from private vate landlords, as well as Farnham Courts, which is owned by the Housing Authority.

Community Notes

ONCE AGAIN, TWICE AGAIN

Women vs. Conn. challenged the state's second abortion law as being unconstitutional. A three judge panel agreed with them and nulled the law. The state appealed the decision and asked that the law be in effect until the appeal is decided. Justice Thurgood Marshall said no. Recently the Supreme Court overruled Marshall by granting the state's request for a stay until the appeal is decided. This means that the law ruled unconstitutional is still in effect.

COURT SUIT AGAINST SCHOOLS

Another court challenge to the education system is shaping up in New Haven. A petition is being circulated which will be presented to the New Haven Board of Aldermen at the November meeting. The petition asks the Board to join Hartford in a Federal Court suit against the present school district laws. The city of Hartford has already filed suit as voted by the City Council.

The suit would be based on the grounds that present school district laws are in fact fact legal barriers to desegregation, that they indeed cause racial and economic discrimination, that the present laws promote the exodus of higher income groups from the city and thereby cause an increase in the cost of municipal services.

The Board of Aldermen will probably set a date for a public hearing on the request.

FIXING UNSAFE WORKING CONDITIONS

The Connecticut Occupational Health Group can be contacted at 787-7405 of 101 Orange Streetin the Old Loomis Temple of Music. People working under unsafe conditions can contact the group for medical or legal advice. Regular meetings are held Wednesday at 8:15 p.m.

Citizens Suing Over Rowing Course

Modern Times Staff

The controversial proposal to build a rowing course in Edgewood and West River Park entered the courts on September 21, 1972, three years after it was first announced by Mayor Lee, and two months after it was approved by the Board of Aldermen at their stormy July 10th meeting.

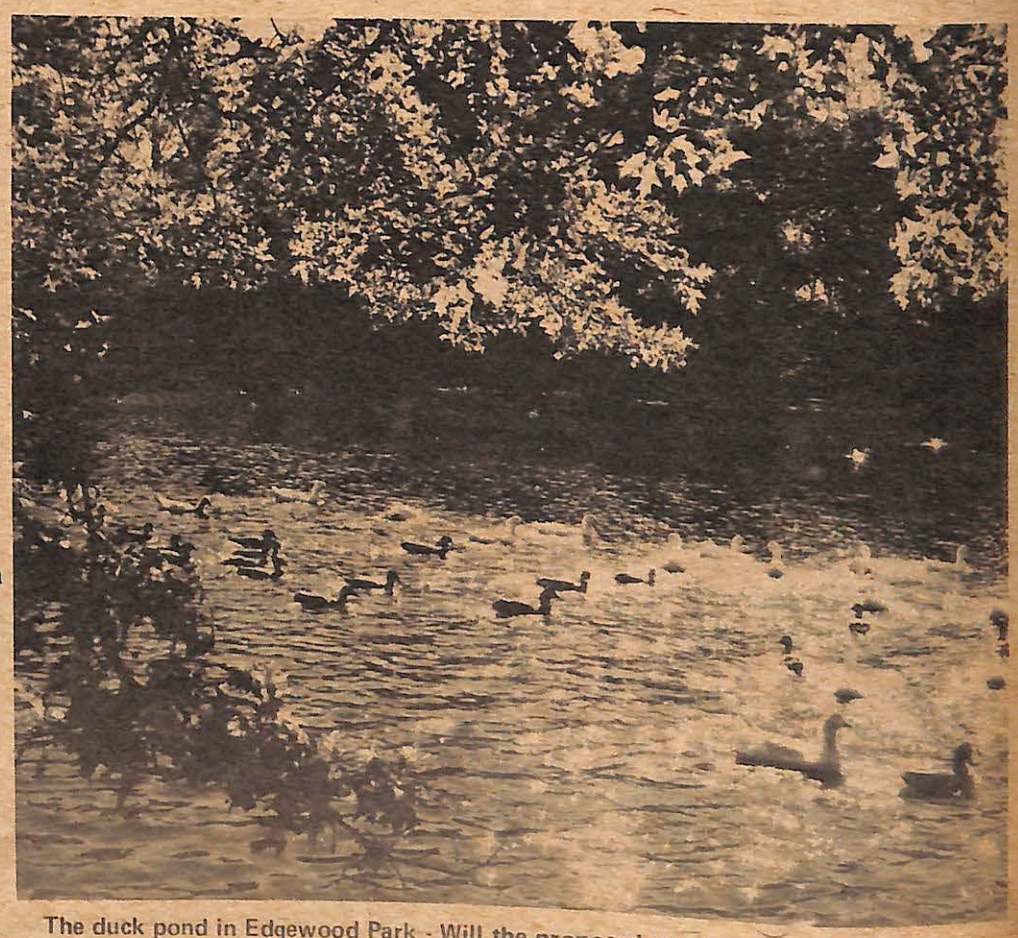
Sixty-one New Haven citizens are asking the Superior Court to permanently enjoin the Mayor from signing and implementing the contract between the International Rowing Course Foundation (IRCF), and the Board of Parks Commissioners.

At the September 21 hearing, the rowing opponents gained a minor victory when the City agreed, in a written "stipulation", and now part of the Court record, that it would not sign or otherwise proceed with the contract until the hearing on the permanent injunction is held.

Attorney Richard Hershatter, representing the New Haven citizens, indicated in a telephone interview that this next hearing will be held in October.

One possible outcome is that the judge might ask the Connecticut Department

See ROWING page 6



The duck pond in Edgewood Park - Will the proposed rowing course change all this? (MT photo by Vittorio Comisso)

Bus Drivers Offered Big Wage Cuts

by Matt Borenstein
Modern Times Staff
News Analysis

"What Connecticut needs is a comprehensive plan for the development of mass transportation over the next five years -- Meskill's administration doesn't have a plan for the next five minutes."

This was the comment of John Thompson, business agent for the Amalgamated Transit Union, (ATU) Division 281, on the present state of the "bus crisis" in New Haven and Connecticut. The ATU is the union representing Connecticut bus drivers.

The Connecticut Rail and Lighting Company (CR&L) has just shut down when it could not meet the payroll of its bus drivers and mechanics. The last offer the company gave to the drivers was a 70 cents per hours cut in wages. The shutdown has affected over 15,000 riders in Bridgeport and Waterbury.

In New Haven, Hartford and Stamford the ATU is negotiating on a day-to-day basis with the Connecticut Company. The Connecticut Company has offered a 48 cents per hour cut in wages to its drivers.

Meskill Passes the Buck

After Meskill called a special session of the state legislature to deal with the bus crisis false hopes were aroused. The Assembly and Senate did not pass the bill Meskill wanted. So Meskill vetoed the bill and said it's just an old-fashioned "labor-management dispute."

Meskill is still pushing for $3 million from the Highway Maintenance Fund to be distributed to the 169 Connecticut towns. According to union business agent Thompson, only 52 Connecticut cities have bus service problems and its unlikely that the money could be pooled in an efficient way to settle the wage demands of Connecticut bus drivers.

See BUS DRIVERS page 7

Labor For McGovern

One unionist who works at a defense plant in Groton voiced the need to dispell the myth that defense workers should fear McGovern. He explained that unemployment has been at its worst with Nixon and that McGovern alone has made attempts to deal with the problems facing defense workers.

The Labor for McGovern meeting was chaired by Vinnie Sirabella and included representatives from the International Association of Machinists (IAM), the Hotel, Restaurant and Bartenders Union, several locals of the American Federation of Teachers, 1199 of the Hospital Workers, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and the Printing Pressmen.

Additional meetings are scheduled and anyone interested should contact Vinnie Sirabella, 624-6248.

McGovern Headquarters

At McGovern headquarters, activity has not faded with the passing of the October 14 registration deadline. Hundreds of new voters, mostly pro-McGovern Democrats, have registered, and now McGovern volunteers are canvassing New Haven to assure a strong voter turnout.

A constant theme in their drive is Nixon's own statement of October 9, 1968 - "Anyone who has promised peace in four years and cannot deliver does not deserve a second chance" - belying Nixon's supposed plans for peace. There are also plans for McGovern to visit Connecticut at some unspecified date - probably in October.

Farah Union Asks Support

by Henry Tamarin and Ed Breuler
Modern Times Staff

Boycott Farah Pants!
The Employees of Farah and the members of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America have sounded this plea to the people of America. In order to support the workers and their quest for better working conditions and pride in their carrying a Union Label, there will be a rally on the New Haven Green November 11. Nick Aiello and Joe Smite of the union's regional office will lead it.

Picketers in front of Perkes Department Store on Grand Ave. ask customers not to buy Farah brand pants.

(MT photo by Nick Heyer)

The boycott is a tool that we can use to curb the widespread abuse by management. The workers of Farah Manufacturing Co. are the victims of such abuse. The National Labor Relations Board has found the Farah Co. guilty of numerous unfair Labor practices including the firing of Union supporters, surveillance of employees and intimidation of all sorts with the help of police dogs and armed guards.

Workers Combat Exploitation

Farah is one of the largest manufacturers of pants in the country. It employs over 10,000 people, most of them Mexican-American women.

In an effort to combat the Company's exploitative working conditions, many of the employees have joined the Union in the hope that they might be able to use the Union as a bargaining agent against the Co. The Union organizers were suspended from their jobs for this action.

On May 3, the workers of one plant walked off their jobs in support of these people. Since then, over 3,000 other people have joined the walk-out.

A Union struggle in other parts of the country may not have a devastating effect on New Haven people but then again you could be wrong.

Laws Too Weak

What has become an important issue there is that the laws protecting the worker are too weak. In spite of all the Union support and the rulings of the NLRB, Farah has and will continue to flaunt and exploit its workers.

The arrest and the intimidations continue without restraint.

They must get our support. The only effective tool that we have is the boycotting of Farah Pants. Talk to your friends about the strike and remind them that they should only buy Union Label pants.

The boycott has the full support of the AFL-CIO and the Democratic candidates George McGovern and Sargeant Shriver.

Only through widespread support will the boycott work. The pants that you may be wearing are not as thin as the workers who perhaps made them.

Labor Notes

UNIONIZATION DRIVE AT CHCP

Employees of the Community Health Care Plan (CHCP) Center are well along in their organization drive, according to Justin Manning of Local 329, Office and Professional Employees Union. A majority of the workers have signed union membership cards and Manning has asked for a card check by an impartial third party to assure the validity of the signatures.

This procedure could be completed by the end of the month after which the union will be the official bargaining agent for CHCP employees and a contract will be negotiated. The card check will serve in place of an election which could take several months to complete..

COURT SETTLES STRIKE ISSUE

In a landmark decision recently handed down, the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals *upheld the right of the union to assess fines against members who resigned from the union during a strike and then crossed picket lines to return to work. The court decision permitted the union to enforce collection of the fine.*

The National Labor Relations Board claimed that the union had no right to enforce the fine because the members had resigned. The court, however, held that the fined members had voted for the strike and were committed to respect the picket line even though they resigned later one. The strike was at the International Paper Box Company in Nashua, N.H.

HOUSEHOLD WORKERS ORGANIZE

The National Committee on Household Employment (NCHE) held its national convention in New York City the second week in October. Over 1.5 million people-97% of them women--do household work in this country. Eighty percent of the women are heads of households or self-supporting, yet the average yearly pay for household work is only $2000.

The NCHE is attempting to organize household workers who currently have no job protection and no coverage by minimum wage laws. In the south some women make only $4 for a full day's work. The NCHE is demanding a minimum of $2 per hour.

Nine Week Strike At Hawkins Home Continues

Strikers Jeraldine Norton, Joan Lyke, Mary Longabardi, and 1199 union organizer Merrillee Milstein protest conditions for both workers and patients at the Hawkins Convalesent Home in West Haven.

(MT photo by Nick Heyer)

Editorial Vote For McGovern

We support the election of Senator George McGovern to the Presidency to prevent four more years of the disastrous Nixon government. McGovern has committed himself to certain principles that make his election important. His statement that "Money made by money should be taxed at the same rate as money made by men" promises a fair tax system for once. Working people can expect their taxes to go down, while the big corporations and wealthy individuals will finally have to pay. Nixon has neither done nor promised anything like this.

McGovern will stop the war in Southeast Asia, he says, within 90 days of taking office. He'll bring home the troops and the prisoners. In four years Nixon has told many lies about the war, but he has not ended it, thereby only adding to the killing, to the number of prisoners, and to the tragic waste of billions needed by Americans here at home.

During his 14 years in the U.S. Congress, McGovern has supported labor-backed issues 93.5 per cent of the time according to the records of the AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education (COPE). Connecticut's Senator Ribicoff has a 93.7 per cent record, while Senator Muskie has 94.6. Nixon's record in Congress and then as Vice-President (1947-1960) was recorded by COPE as 13 per cent.

Senator McGovern's proposals do not always go far enough in hitting at the roots of our problems as a nation. And we disagree with a few of his plans. However, he has at least shown sympathy for the efforts of working people to improve their lives by union organizing, by strikes when necessary (including public employees), and by organizing their neighbors to bring about changes in our society. Nixon has over and over again shown himself to be the enemy of any changes in America that would lessen the special privileges of the corporations in the interests of the people's needs. Those of us who intend to continue working for the changes that are needed will certainly find McGovern a far better choice than Nixon.

The choice is clear: McGovern for President.

Write On Israel Criticized

To The Editor:

Nelson Rockefeller was to come to Woodbridge on October 4 to receive an award for his "dedication to the cause of freedom" and in particular his "love for Israel." The award was to be given by the Jewish National Fund at B'nai Jacob Synagogue. It was part of a celebration for Israel's 25th birthday. Rockefeller never showed.

I was there among a group of approximately 20 demonstrators. We were Arabs, Jews and other members of the New Haven community. One of us was wearing his yarmulke and talliss. Most of us were members of various groups concerned with the Middle East, including a Marxist study-action group and the Yale Committee on the Middle East.

We saw nothing to celebrate in the fact that Palestinians have been effectively removed from their homes, have lost their land and have no control over their own lives. We were also protesting Rockefeller's very partial view of freedom, which manages to ignore the freedom of Palestinians and other oppressed peoples (Remember Attica).

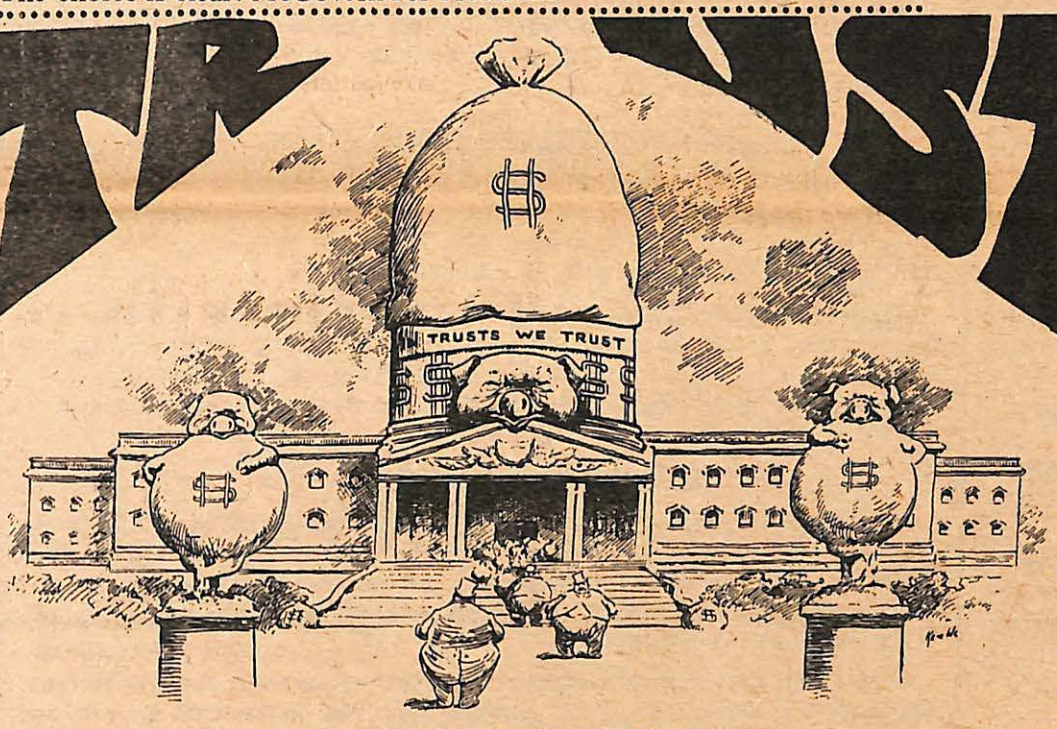
Chilled through and through, we held up signs for the benefit of cars slowly turning into the long B'nai Jacob driveway. Some of the signs read: "Israel Celebrates, Palestinians Mourn" and "Why Does the Israeli Government So Strongly Support U.S. Policy in Vietnam?".

The flyers we distributed pointed out that in Israel Jews are now expropriating other peoples' land (with the Jewish National Fund leading the way), that in Israel now Jews are forcing Arabs to carry identity cards marked "Arab" and with a Polaroid picture--in other words, all that is so repulsive about Nazi Germany and present-day South Africa.

What we will continue to work for is a socialist, secular, democratic state in Palestine and a Middle East which is free from all forms of exploitation--especially the type Rockefeller and the Jewish National Fund have been bringing to the Middle East.

Sandy Rosen

TRUST

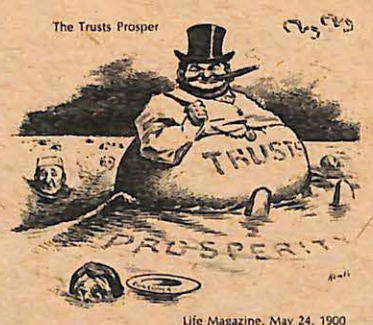


Congress Is in Session, April 24, 1902 (Life Magazine)

About 70 years ago, the biggest corporations were called "Trusts". Then, as now, people knew what corrupt leeches they were. These cartoons show how strongly people felt about it. They also tell us how little some things have changed. The ITT affair told us that too. Will we be able to do more to finally change this situation than our grandfathers and grandmothers did?

High Hopes for Antitrust Laws in 1901

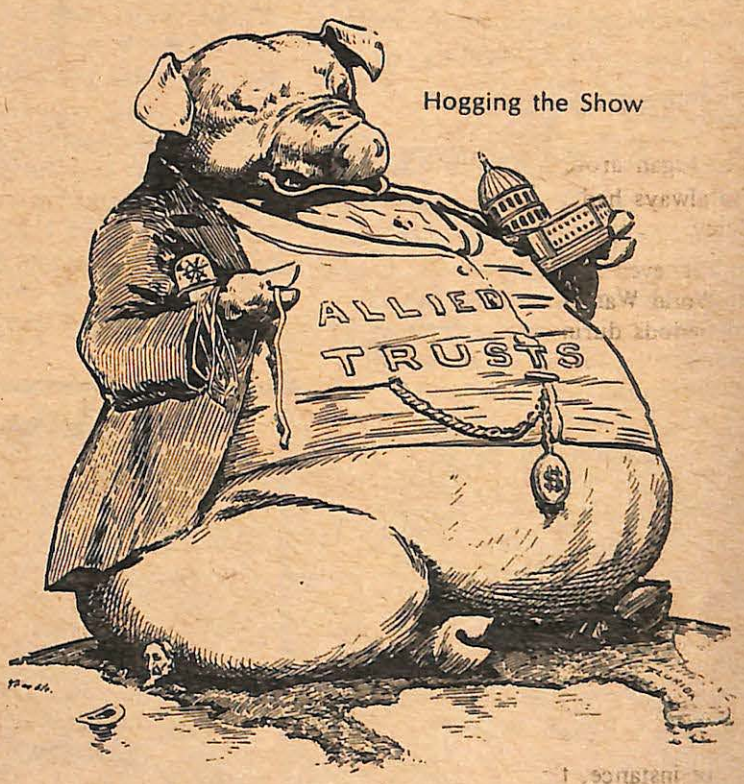
Thanks to Paul Sarnoff in the Business and Society Review, Summer, 1972, No. 2



Life Magazine, May 24, 1900

The Beef Trust Corners the Butter and Egg Market, 1902

A Little Hog Killing Might Be a Good Thing for the Country at Large



Hogging the Show

Puzzle: Find Uncle Sam

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MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on MODERN TIMES is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions of the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news in commercial papers run for profit. There is no place else where the work and play of people who aren't rich is considered important enough to write about. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them instead of by their bosses. There is no place else where hunger, bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.

We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of this wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. Then there would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs, waste our resources and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need—not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the rich, powerful few who run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care and decent jobs.

STAFF: David Adams, Gary Benenson, Matt Borenstein, Ed Breuler, Jerry Cohen, Ellen Comisso, Vittorio Comisso, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Art Fleischner, Paul Gill, Sam Goodwin, Stanley Heller, Liz Henderson, Nick Heyer, Eileen Hoffman, Peter Jackson, Lynne Karsten, Karl Lechow, Alice Mick, Ray Milici, Patti Miller, Laurie Nussdorfer, Jim Jordan, Renee Poirier, Peter O'Connell, Naomi Resnick, Ruth Resnick, Florrie Ricciuti, Bob Sherry, Henry Tamarin, Ross Thompson, Sergio Verillo, Rick Wolff, Karen Wolff

EAST SIDE ROUND UP

Fair Haven Gets Free Health Care

by Andy Esposito
Fair Haven Community Health Clinic

Medical care, both preventive and corrective, is almost non-existent in Fair Haven. There are only two medical doctors for a population of over sixteen thousand people. This means that each doctor should care for an average of eight thousand people. Such a ratio, 1:8,000 is intolerable!

The Fair Haven Community Health Clinic (FHCHC) was established to help ease this health care crisis. It presently operates from six o'clock to nine o'clock on Monday and Wednesday evenings in the Christopher Columbus School, 255 Blatchley Avenue. Any resident of Fair Haven will be treated free of charge.

The services performed by the staff of the FHCHC are: 1) care of general ailments such as colds, sore throat, etc.; 2) testing for T.B., anemia, Pap smears, hearing and speech; 3) eye examinations given on Wednesday evenings; 4) physicals for school and employment; 5) referrals are made to Yale-New Haven: and 6) a family planning service.

How Free Health Care Was Set Up

The FHCHC began operation, under the sponsorship of the Alliance for Latin American Progress, on Monday, August 16 1971, with a grant of $5,000 from the New Haven Foundation. During the first month Peter Blasini, the Clinic's first director, concentrated on staffing and scheduling medical personnel to work at the Clinic.

Fair Haven residents wait for medical attention they can afford at the new health clinic. (MT photo by Vittorio Comisso)

During October and November of 1971 meetings, open to the public, were held to form a steering committee to guide the development of the clinic. Members of the committee formed five sub-committees: 1) health education, 2) health delivery systems, 3) funding, 4) site selection, and 5) the composition of the Board of Directors.

As community residents were laying plans for the Clinic, a funding proposal for a family planning unit was submitted to the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) by the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation (FHNC). The proposal was written by the FHNC because at this time the Clinic was not eligible to receive OEO money. The involvement of the FHNC, in addition to funding, increased community participation in the Clinic.

In the spring of 1971 the New Haven County Medical Association gave the Clinic an $8,000 grant for the establishment of a nurse-practitioner program. In April of 1971 the steering committee decided on the composition of the Clinic's Board of Directors. The Board was to consist of three people from the FHNC, three people from the Alliance for Latin American Progress, two members of the professional staff, and five patients.

The most pressing need which currently faces the Clinic is a need for additional staff people. There has been a generous response from those doctors and nurses who give freely of their time. However, more such people are needed if the Clinic is to grow and prosper. A critical need exists for a nurse to work on Monday evenings. Fortunately, supplies are not a problem. The Clinic has obtained free drugs from both the Abbot Pharmaceutical and Upjohn Companies.

Future Plans

Future plans for the Clinic are ambitious. Hopefully, the Clinic will soon be able to move to a site which will enable it to increase its operating time to five nights a week. A larger physical plant will house a clinical laboratory and allow the testing of samples to be done on the premise without the delay now caused by using an outside laboratory. Increased space will enable the Clinic to establish a full dental care unit. Funding for these programs will be sought from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The failures of the American Medical Association, which represents the medical establishment, has led to the need for the Fair Haven Clinic. However the days of business-for-profit medicine are at an end and until a national health care plan becomes a reality, working people must take matters into their own hands. The people of Fair Haven, by establishing a free health clinic, have taken a step toward claiming one of their constitutional rights - the right to proper health care.

Brass Tacks

Capitalism Creates Unemployment

by Mike Holodnak

America has never had full employment. The system just won't allow it.

Since the industrial revolution, which began around the Civil War, we we've always had a bust or boom economy.

Yet, even in relatively good times since World War II, except for two short periods during the Korean and the Vietnam wars, we've never had less than four% unemployment.

Then, in 1970, unemployment went up to the 5½ to 6% mark where it stubbornly continues to remain, despite all of Nixon's rosy pronouncements.

True Figures Worse

But, remember, these figures are official Nixon administration handouts. And, as bad as they are, the true figures are even worse.

For instance, there are 2.4 million million mothers of dependent children on welfare. According to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, 70 to 80 percent of these welfare mothers would go to work if they had day care centers for their children.

Yet, Nixon vetoed day care centers.

Could it be that Nixon preferred these mothers on welfare rather than have them looking for non-existent job jobs and worsen the unemployment picture?

Uncounted Jobless

Now consider the hundreds of thousands of teenagers entering the job markets who gave up looking for jobs. The thousands who have exhausted their unemployment checks and are living on savings or in whatever way they can. The two million convicts, many of whom would not have ended up in prison had there been jobs for them. The thousands of young men drafted into military service. And finally, the drug dropouts and the suicides who could no longer stomach the system.

Business is booming for one New Haven office as many not so eager customers seek help from the unemployment office. (MT photo by Ray Milici)

All these millions of people are automatically non-persons and therefore not counted as unemployed.

This does not even take into account the many thousands of workers who have been forced to take part-time or very low paying jobs.

In short, the true unemployment picture is far more disastrous than Nixon gives.

The Urban League, for example, made its own survey and found that while official figures for unemployed blacks in certain urban areas were 11.1 percent, the true figures were actually 23.8 percent.

Corporate Greed

Unemployment has always been and still is caused by overproduction generated by corporate greed which sets into motion mechanization of agriculture, runaway shops, speedups and automation, all at the expense of workers who create all the wealth.

Large corporation farms, whose mechanization is often subsidized by tax-paid farm subsidies have driven nearly 3 million small farmers off the land, plus 5.5 million agricultural workers.

Runaway shops, with the help of of tax loop-holes, go to Mexico, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Thailand for super profits. In the electronic industry alone some 200,000 jobs have vanished from American soil.

Automation and cybernation wipe out some two million jobs every year, hitting nearly every type of major industry.

Today there isn't one worker in this country who can say that his or her job is safe.

A few years ago nuclear physicists were laid off in wholesale lots to walk the street unable to find work because they were "overeducated."

Not long ago, in Seattle, highly skilled engineers, many with 15 and 20 years seniority, were laid off. So Some lost their homes, a few committed suicide, and many came to realize that unemployment is not a phenomenon that belongs only to the unskilled or "the lazy" as they had been led to believe.

Back in 1927, Eugene V. Debs, the well-known union organizer, said' "There is an intimate relation between the poorhouse and the prison. Both are made necessary in a society which is based upon exploitation."

Big Money Buys Votes

by Matt Borenstein
Modern Times Staff

The notion that you have to be rich or have rich friends to run for public office has been again confirmed by an analysis of the 1970 elections.

The Citizens' Research Foundation of Princeton, N.J., just published a list of contributors to campaigns in 1970 of $500 or more. You also have to have some spare cash to get the list--it costs $75.

The study discloses that Governor Rockefeller of New York and his family gave him the most money every spent by an American to obtain and hold public office--$4.5 million.

Famous Funding Forerunners

The following is a list of Connecticut residents who contributed huge sums in 1970 to finance campaigns:
Wallace Barnes, Farmington, Conn., former State Senator, President of Associated Spring Corporation. Contributions to his own unsuccessful primary campaign for the Republican gubernatorial nomination were $268,315.
Alphonsus J. Donahue, Stamford, Conn., businessman. Contributions to his own unsuccessful primary campaign for the Democratic Senate nomination, $699,700.
Leroy Frantz, Jr., Riverside, Conn. *Vice president of International Flavors & Fragrances, Inc. $66,100 to the Republican Party.*
Dan W. Lufkin, Newton, Conn., Chairman of Donaldson, Lufkin, Jenrette, Inc. Contributions to Connecticut Republicans, $103,000.

Further Forerunners

Edward L. Marcus, New Haven, Conn., former State Senate majority leader. He gave his unsuccessful primary bid for the Democratic Senate nomination, $25,000.

Gerrish H. Milliken Jr., Greenwich, Conn., textile executive, vice-president of Deering, Milliken, Inc., gave $26,240 to the Republicans.
John C. Newington, Greenwich, Conn., retired investment banker, gave $33,500 to the Republicans.
George D. Pratt, Jr., Bridgewater, Conn., dairy farmer. A former member of the State Board of Education gave $46,900 to the Democrats.
Gordon W. Reed, Greenwich, Conn., chairman of the finance committee of American Metal Climax, Inc., gave $39,000 to the Republicans.

Final Funding Forerunners

Gene Tunney, Stamford, Conn., the retired prize fighter and father of John V. Tunney of California and Jonathan, a brother of the Senator to whom they gave, $123,474.
Senator Lowell P. Weicker, Jr., Greenwich, Conn. Contributions from his family to his successful campaign totaled $92,000.
New York Governor Rockefeller's total campaign spending since 1952 exceeds $27 million.

Money isn't everything in politics but it sure helps.

'THE TOOTH FAIRY LEFT IT'

Anti Rowing Suit

Continued from page 2

of Environmental Control to study the matter further. This agency has already conducted a field and a biological survey of the West River Park, and the staff has recommended that portions of the park be declared "wetlands."

If Commissioner Daniel Lufkin agrees with the report, then the IRCF will have to get a permit from his agency to proceed with the rowing course. This would also involve another public hearing, at which questions of ecological damage would have to be discussed.

The IRCF is headed by Juan Terry Trippe, founder and honorary chairman of Pan American World Airways, a Yale graduate (1921), member of the Yale Board of Trustees (1950-68), and friend of the Nixon Administration.

It is rumored that a Senator from the State of Washington will introduce a special bill in Congress appropriating money to build the rowing course, whose cost is estimated at 6-10 million dollars. The Boeing Corporation is located in Seattle, Washington, and in 1965 Pan Am placed a 500 million dollar order with Boeing for the 747 jets.

Finish Line

It is also rumored that the U.S. Steel Corporation has designed a replacement for the Chapel Street bridge, which will be torn down to provide a finish line convenient to Yale Bowl parking lots.

The "Edgewood Park Committee" the citizens' organization, which wants to to keep the park for people, held a Public Meeting on October 18th at the Sheridan Middle School. Attorney Hershatter reported on the progress of the case.

For more information and to help with contributions of time and money, contact:

Edgewood Park Committee
c/o Naomi Shaiken
59 Alston Avenue
New Haven, Conn. 06515
(389-9150)

Mark Fennessy is exhibiting his pen and ink and brush and ink drawings at Pierson College at Yale from October 8th - 29th.

Used Car - '67 Datsun. New, guaranteed clutch and rebuilt transmission. $475. Please call 865-8396.

Open Line

Tax Dollars Asked For Private Schools

by Gary Benenson

Now that George McGovern has set his sights on actually winning, he has become more and more a losing candidate. It is a sad spectacle. The man who began his campaign by promising to "Change America" now sounds more and more like his opponent Richard Nixon.

The most dramatic and disheartening example of the "Nixonized" McGovern is his recent stand in favor of tax aid for private and parochial schools. On September 19, speaking at a Catholic high school in Chicago, McGovern endorsed the bill sponsored by Rep. Wilbur Mills of Arkansas.

The Mills bill calls for a $200 a year tax credit for each child attending a private or parochial school. A tax credit is a much healthier tax break than a deduction, in that it is subtracted from the total tax owed after deductions. This bill already has the support of Nixon; many Southern Democrats, and now McGovern.

Who would tax-aid to parochial schools help? The politician's usual answer is that it would help out parents who otherwise couldn't afford to send their children to parochial schools. By taking these children out of the public schools, the argument runs, it also helps to relieve some of the burden on the cities.

But there are many other reasons besides finances why Catholic school enrollments are suffering. A study by the New York Department of City Planning found, "The decline in Catholic elementary school enrollment is not due primarily to rising costs...All (studies) point to changing Catholic attitudes as the fundamental issue." Here is an interesting fact which supports this idea: Out of the 76 Catholic elementary schools which closed in New York State between 1965-1969, 25 *were tuition free.*

It may well be that the major benefactor from the tax credit plan would be (or so they hope) the Catholic Church. The average Catholic family gives only about 2-3% of its total income to the church--including both contributions to the parish and school tuitions. The tax credit plan would make it possible for the church to increase its share.

Tax aid to private schools has a more obvious racial motive. Since court-ordered school desegregation swept the South in 1965, over 250,000 students have begun attending newly established private schools. Tax credits would make it that much more attractive for white parents, North and South, to avoid sending their children to newly integrated public schools.

It's obvious, however, that the tax credit plan would mainly help the middle-income parents, since the $200 credit could not possibly cover the full cost of a year in private school. The plan would do nothing so much as to reinforce the deep and growing divisions in our schools and our society along race and class lines. It's probably obvious why Nixon and the Southern Democrats would support such a plan, but wasn't McGovern supposed to be the champion of the workers and minority groups?

Both nationwide teacher organizations--the NEA and the AFT--have taken strong stands against the tax credit plan, although both support McGovern. The same day that McGovern made his speech, the NEA sent him a telegram protesting his stand. They concluded, "We strongly urge that you focus your energies on the overwhelming fiscal crisis in our public school system, which enrolls 90% of the nation's school age children."

The basic question is whether and why the government should be in the business of subsidizing non-public schools. Let's suppose I send my children to private school and get the tax credit, and you send your children to public school and pay the full tax. Then you're paying more than your fair share of taxes. Worse still, your extra taxes are going to subsidize private and parochial schools about whose policies you (or I) have nothing to say. Is this democracy?

The public schools may be terrible but at least you and I as taxpayers can go to the Board of Education hearings and make suggestions, or in the end vote down the mayor who appoints the Board. But private institutions have no reason at all to listen to the public, particularly when they can depend on a healthy government subsidy in the form of tax credits to consumers.

If there is a lesson to be drawn from McGovern's turnaround, it is this: now McGovern is really out to win. As a good Democrat, his way of trying to win is to get as many Democrats to back him as he can. But Democrats like Mayor Daley, Wilbur Mills, and Lyndon Johnson are nobody's fools. They don't support anyone for free. A part of the price McGovern must pay for their support is to whittle away his program until it sounds more and more like their program. McGovern is still a better candidate than Nixon, but voters for McGovern should have no illusions.

Who are the Cogs in the Democratic Organization?

continued from page 1

How much pull can you get if you work for the Party? Leaders in each ward get to pick people to work on election day. Each person will get usually between $25 and $35 that day working in the polls, on the telephones, or driving voters to and from the polls.

Ward leaders have the right to nominate candidates for Alderman. They also have some say in selecting State Representatives and Senators from their area. But probably the kind of pull that matters most is the chance to get a job for yourself or for someone you know.

Do you want to work for the city of New Haven or in some State or Federal program run by the city? Well, for some of those jobs, it helps to be a Party worker or to know somebody who is. And if you get a job that way, there is an unwritten agreement that you will do some work for the Party.

How many jobs are gotten this way? Nobody seems to know. But whether it's few or many, the hope of getting a job this way leads some Party workers to be active.

If you work hard in the Party, you have a better chance of getting scarce city services--from snow removal to a traffic light to a zoning change. You also have a chance to meet people who may have better jobs to offer you in their businesses than the one you now have.

You have a chance to get the city or the Party to buy its pencils or tires or insurance from you or from your relatives or from your friends. You may be able to get someone into a housing project for the elderly. If you can get to be a Party leader, you'll find it easier to get a bank loan or to hear a good tip about a good deal to be made here or there.

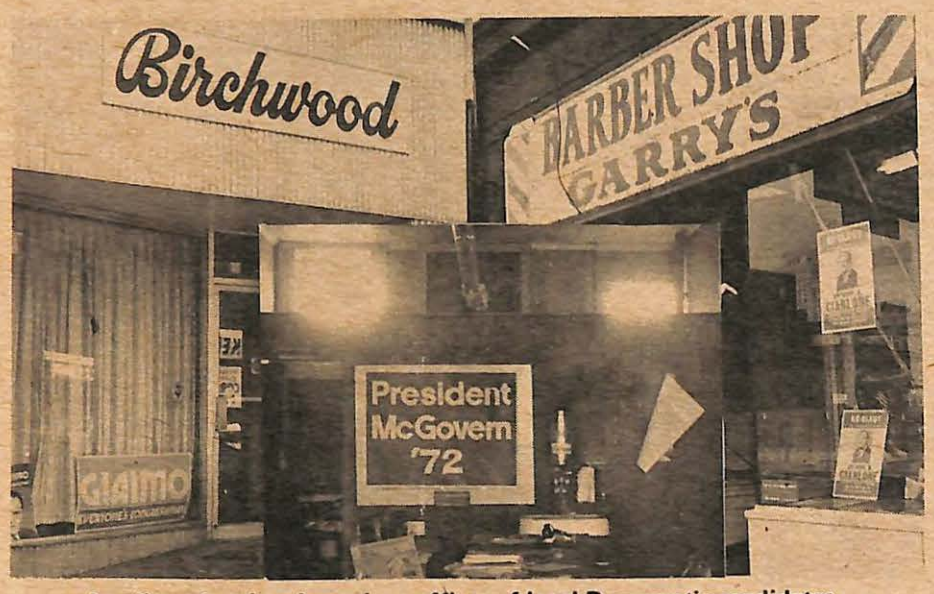
For many active New Haven Democrats, the Party offers the best chance to "get ahead" that they can find. For thousands of New Haven Democrats their loyalty to the Party on election day and their willingness to do a little work for the Party is explained this way: "Sure the Democratic Party is for me and for everyone one else around here. You just ask people. Everyone knows somebody who had a problem or needed a job or something like that. And who could they ask for help, who would give them the time of day? That's right, some Democrats. They said they'd see what they could do. And a lot of times, they did real good. Now, who the hell else would do that without taking your money?"

The number of people who work hard for the Party is really very few, a handful in most wards. Their hopes for a dignified place in their community, for some respect and some economic advancement--these hopes mixed in different proportions in different individuals--are behind the power of the machine.

There are other factors too, but they don't seem to explain why some people work hard for the Party; they explain more the loyalty of those whose only political act is voting. People feel ties with their national or religious or racial group. Some New Haveners spoke of the Democrats as "the Party of working people." Some just said that all their friends were Democrats.

What does the Party Do?

The main task of the ward organization of the Democratic Party is to get out the Democratic vote on election day. In preparation for that day, each Democratic ward committee tries to register people who are likely to vote Democratic. In many New Haven wards, there are not enough active Democrats to do this door-to-door job very well, if at all.



A collage showing the various offices of local Democratic candidates. (MT collage by Nick Heyer)

Just before election day, the ward committee arranges to get absentee ballots to the people who cannot go and vote in person on election day. These are often old people. Often, a person from the ward committee helps them fill in the absentee ballot. There will be between 3000 and 5000 absentee ballots for the election this November. On election day, the ward committee makes sure all likely Democratic voters get to the polls.

The rules of the Democratic Party say that each ward can have a ward committee of up to 50 people. But in almost every ward in New Haven, 5 or 6 people form the committee. In many wards, there are no committee meetings held, except maybe informally at nominating time.

The Ward committee also nominates the aldermanic candidate and sends delegates to the meetings to nominate all other democratic candidates that represent the people in that ward.

There are many myths about the "Democratic machine." The fact is that it is not large. It has a hard time getting many people active. It does not have big rewards for most of its members. It cannot keep its people under any strict discipline. Yet it has much built-up loyalty from voters who know and appreciate what little was done for them by their ward democrats. A little was better than none, which is all the rest of the community ever gave them.

Bus Drivers Offered Big Wage Cuts

continued from page 3

It would take about one million dollars to solve the present wage demands of Connecticut bus drivers (within wage control guidelines). Thompson felt that undue pressure and blame was being placed on bus drivers "Is it wrong to seek just increases in wages?"

Although the ATU is opposed to direct public subsidies to the private bus lines, they might be the only solution for this year. The bus companies could be made accountable for use of the money and the next year could be spent to draw up a plan for a state takeover and operation of public transportation. Federal monies are available -- but only if there are plans.

Public-owned Buses: Better, Cheaper

Thompson felt that public transportation must be taken more seriously for the future of Connecticut. Increased automobile traffic is choking cities with pollution and the young, sick and elderly right now depend heavily on the buslines. In addition, employment opportunities for inner-city residents would be improved if cheap efficient mass transportation were more available.

It is sad, Thompson continued, that we have to wait for a crisis to start to make necessary changes in thiscountry. It seems that a major strike or people dying on the street from air pollution might be necessary before mass transit were taken more seriously.

Many experiments have been tried around the country and some are applicable to the New Haven area. In Atlanta, Georgia, the city bought up the private bus lines and reduced the fare from 40 cents to 25 cents. They are enjoying a surge of riders and are advertising around the country for unused buses in other cities to help fill the growing demand. A free "bus day" could be established or special bus lanes to speed suburban commuters to downtown New Haven. Yale University runs a free bus service for its employees. They run four buses per hour from the Yale-New Haven Hospital to the Divinity School on Prospect Street.

Public mass transit is inevitable. The question is how long we will have to wait and how many hardships we will suffer before we get it. As long as we keep serving the profit interests of people like E. Clayton Gengras, we will have to wait a long time. The bankruptcy of the Penn-Central Railroad showed that private companies are not interested in public service. Revenues went into real estate while passenger facilities become so bad that the Federal and State Governments had to take over.

PERISCOPE

On The Environment

by Tony Dominski
Modern Times Staff

Will New Haven be Under Water in the 21st Century?

The vast outpouring of carbon dioxide from coal and oil burning plants may raise the earth's temperature enough to alter the earth's climate. Carbon dioxide acts like a greenhouse and traps heat so that it cannot escape from the earth's atmosphere. Weather experts estimate that an increase of only one-quarter of a percent in the earth's heat--which the estimated increase in carbon dioxide by the year 2000 could bring--could melt the ice in the Arctic Ocean and initiate the melting of the North and South Polar Icecaps. The resulting rise in sea levels could flood coastal cities like New Haven. It would be ironic if the increase in power generation promoted by utilities such as UI may lead to the flooding of their generating stations.

Jetports and Mental Health

High Noise levels near airports may trigger mental illness. Dr. Colin Herridge, a London psychiatrist reports that admission to mental hospitals are significantly higher in high noise areas bordering London's Heathrow airport than in other parts of the city. Women particularly over the age of 45 were particularly affected (maybe because they stayed home more). East Haveners beware!

Herbicides and Liver Cancer in Vietnam

Dr. Ton That Tung of the University of Hanoi observed a 5-fold increase in liver cancer between 1955-61 and 1962-66. He suspects that dioxin--a contaminant of 2-4-5-T--sprayed by American planes may be at fault. Meanwhile, back in the States the Dow Chemical Co. is seeking Department of Environmental Protection approval for the use of 2-4-5-T for use in weeding U.S. ricefields.

A Gap In The Pepsi Generation

The Pepsi-Cola Company, the same company that brought the tooth-rotting, pancreas straining, status drink for mindless "modern young adults" is at it again. It is launching a program called ECO AMERICA to encourage young people to solve problems of the environment through high school clubs. But it may backfire. If these young people gain any consciousness of environmental health problems, they will be propagandizing their friends to boycott Pepsi and drink something nutritive like fruit juices.

On The Job

AFL-CIO Helps Its Own

by Frank Fallon
AFL-CIO Community Services

I am the AFL -CIO Community Services Representative. I act as and advocate for any person who is entitled to a service. I'm sorry to say that people need an advocate; agencies automatically do not serve people in every case.

I primarily serve the members of organized labor with problems other than those with their contract--other than wages, hours, working conditions, grievances. This is the business of the union officials of the local. I make sure union members are getting full service from their community agencies.

I've been around the labor movement a long time. I hold a 30 year card in the Teamsters. Also, I hold a card in the office worker's union which I took out when the Teamsters became disaffiliated with the AFL-CIO. I wanted a working relationship, in an official manner, with all unions in the community.

Bridge to Agencies

What I see myself doing is being a bridge from the problem to the agency. The first thing I do is refer the person to the agency and make an appointment for him or her to go and talk over the problem. If people run into problems and just don't understand why they're not getting the service, they come back to me to help them out.

Frank Fallon of United Way has been working with union members who are seeking help with community agencies. (MT photo by Nick Heyer)

This is my twentieth year on the job here. I used to make a living in the Teamster Craft--driving trucks and working generally around the transportation industry. I came into this type of work through the back door. The old Community Chest, now the United Way, used to operate with volunteers. I volunteered to work with them.

Then they decided to get some support from working people, the person in the street. Having worked in unions for twenty years, as a shop steward, a union officer and in some offices in the Central Labor Council, they figured I could deal with people and at least explain what it was all about. I felt that if people knew about the services and knew how to get them, it would automatically lead to more support. I think it has just worked out that way.

I think all too often with the dues checkoff where peoples dues are taken out of their pay and they're a little too lax about going to meetings, they kind of lose real touch with their union. A lot of people can't name the four top officers.

So now it comes when they've got a problem and if the union steers them to a person like me they begin to see that the union is more of a thing than signs and contracts. They begin to see the union in a more human way.

Many people, after they've been to me and gotten help on some really serious problem, say "Gee, I wouldn't have known a thing about you except I read some literature you sent to a union meeting, or I read in my union newsletter that you were at the meeting or I was at a meeting when you appeared and explained some of the services that your're giving here." And so, by and large, I think it helps unions to project a better image of the union to its members.

Also, when unions are doing something noteworthy in the community, I try to bring it to the attention of people that many things are happening because some union person took an interest. Occasionally I publish a list of how many union people I know are in scouting as volunteers or at different times union painters have painted a union building or union carpenters did building for the handicapped.

Why Unionists Need Services

A long time ago we began to realize that even though unions can flex their economic muscle and get better wages, working conditions, health and welfare coverage, we thought what good is a dime an hour to a worker if his kids don't have a decent place to play or if he has a retarded kid. What if he comes to a time of temporary unemployment or financial hardship and he doesn't know how to get food stamps or didn't know even how to apply for welfare.

A union member is just another member of the community. You know, they have the same trouble with retarded children, family disputes, youngsters getting off track, the drug abuse problem. People get illnesses that are far and above what they can afford to pay for.

Not all union benefits are as high as we'd like to see them. Any union member who thinks that he or she is well covered with health and welfare, finds out they're maybe 10 or 15% covered and the big bills are piling up on their shoulders. There are things that are just more than any people can cope with by themselves.

The person in the middle has some problems. Because qualifications are set extremely low, on purpose, and when a person goes to get help, the first thing they do is apply a means test--which I hate. So a guy or woman is taking home $110-$115 a week--it sounds like a lot of money--but that guy or woman might have been carrying a sick kid or a sick husband or wife for a year or a year and a half. They finally come to me when they're down to nothing.

Most people just don't come forward crying for help right away. I would rather they would come to me the first day and I could take their hand and guide them through this maze of welfare and agencies and things and tell them when they qualify and how they go about getting it.

Union Counselling Course

About twice a year a fellow named Lou Arranzo and I conduct a Union Counselling Course and we try to get about 35 or 40 active trade unionists--not always officers but rank and file members, shop stewards and interested people. We bring them in for a series of eight two hour sessions.

At thses sessions I will speak or I will get directors of agency services--food stamps, legal aid, unemployment comp to explain the services that are available to people who have these problems. And we also ask these trade unionists to identify themselves in the plant or department they work as being people who know a little bit about this kind of a service.

If you have a problem to come and discuss it with him or her, and they'll put you in touch with people like Frankie Fallon who'll refer you to a service. If you're entitled to it he'll try to see that you get it.

The Job

I got a job today
in a factory
Now bad luck has gone
has lost its hold on me
'cause I got a job today
and I'm feeling mighty glad
but it's the worst damn job
I have ever had

My head is kinda lifted
and I feel an ease of mind
My burdens like clouds have drifted
sorrow seems far far behind
I'm feeling kinda good
I'm feeling kinda sad
I've got the worst damn job
I have ever had

There'll be champagne and chitt'lins
every day around the clock
And my life will whirl and hum
when my clothes comes out of hock
'Cause I got a job today
and things don't look too bad
But it's the worst damn job
I have ever had

Willard Moore

Willard Moore is a member of the Dressers and Dyers Union of the Furriers Joint Board, a division of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's Union.

Waiting at the Station H. Daumier

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